

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-9, 11-19, 23-24, and 27-28 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 13, and 23 being the independent claims. Claims 23, 27 and 28 are sought to be amended. Claim 10, 20-22, and 25 were previously cancelled. Claim 26 is currently sought to be cancelled. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Objections to the Claims***

Claims 10 and 25 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicants note that claims 10 and 25 were previously cancelled in the Reply filed on December 5, 2006. Accordingly, the objection of these claims is moot.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112***

Claims 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Although Applicants disagree with the rejection, claim 26 is being cancelled for other reasons, and in order to expedite prosecution, rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 27 and 28 have been currently amended to depend from independent claim 23. Accordingly, claims 27 and 28 do not incorporate any defects from cancelled claim 26. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection to claims 27 and 28 is respectfully requested.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated over U.S. Patent No. 5,912,096 to Hada (hereinafter “Hada”). Claims 25 was previously cancelled and claim 26 is currently cancelled, thereby rendering their rejection moot. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to claims 23, 24, and 27.

Claim 23 recites features that distinguish over the applied reference. For example, claim 23 recites:

forming a first pattern of alignment features at the first different respective regions of the substrate having the measured first set of temperatures during an exposure of the substrate; and  
forming a second pattern of alignment features at the second different respective regions of the substrate having the measured second set of temperatures during a subsequent exposure of the substrate.

Hada discloses an exposure apparatus that uses markings on a substrate to perform calibration. “The standard wafer 20 defines several marks X1, X2, Y1, Y2 on its surface.” Hada at Col. 5, lines 10-11. Applicants note that these marks are prefabricated and are used to determine the position of the substrate with respect to the exposure apparatus. “The corresponding stage-position coordinates of each of the marks X1, X2, Y1, Y2 are calculated by the coordinate counter 29 from the stage-position data obtained by the position-measurement sensor 25.” Hada at Col. 5, lines 32-35.

In contrast to what is taught in Hada, the first and second patterns of alignment features of claim 23 are formed during exposure of the substrate. Nowhere does Hada teach or suggest forming marks X1, X2, Y1, Y2, for example, during exposure of the substrate at a first and second set of temperatures, as recited in claim 23. In addition, Hada does not teach or suggest “forming a first pattern of alignment features at the first different respective regions of the substrate having the measured first set of temperatures” (emphasis added). This is done, for example, to maintain a stable and predetermined datum substrate temperature. (*See*, for example, paragraph [0060] of the specification). Accordingly, Hada does not anticipate claim 23, and this claim should be found patentable over the applied reference.

Claims 24 and 27 depend from claim 23, and are thus patentable over Hada for at least the reasons presented above, and further in view of their own distinguishing features. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 23, 24, and 27.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-9 and 11-19 are allowed and that claim 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 28, as amended, depends directly from claim 23, which should be found allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claim 28 be passed to allowance at least for

reasons similar to claim 23, as presented above, and further in view of its unique features.

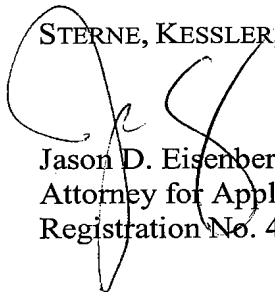
### ***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 23, 2007

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